

72 THE CASTAWAYS OF THE  
FLAG

belonged to a species whose principal  
food consists  
of insects. There were fifty of them, on  
march,  
not towards the sea, but towards the  
mouth of  
the stream, where a quantity of sticky  
laminarise,  
left by the ebb tide, were soaking.

On this side the ground was studded  
with little  
swellings, like bubbles in the sand, the  
meaning  
of which Frank recognised at once.

" There are turtle's eggs under  
those!" he  
exclaimed.

" Well, dig up the eggs, Mr, Frank,"  
John Block  
replied. " Pll belay the fowls ! That's  
certainly  
ever so much better than my boiled  
pebbles, and  
if little Miss Dolly isn't satisfied——"

" The eggs will be warmly welcomed,  
Block,  
you may be sure," Frank declared.

" And the turtles, too ; they are  
excellent beasts  
—excellent for making soup, I mean !  
"

A moment later the boatswain and  
Frank  
had turned a score of them over on to  
their backs.  
They were quite helpless in that  
position. Laden  
with half a dozen of them, and twice as  
many eggs,  
they went back towards the boat\*

Captain Gould listened eagerly to John  
Block's  
story\* Since he had been spared the  
shaking  
of the boat his wound had been paining

him less,  
the fever was beginning to go down,  
and^a week's  
test would certainly put him on his feet  
again\*  
Wounds in the head, unless they are  
exceptionally